DOCKET NO.: MSFT-1973/304061.1
Application No.: 10/621,286
Office Action Dated: February 9, 2006

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

- Claims 1-4, 6-11 and 13-20 are pending in the Application after entry of this amendment.

- Claims 1-4, 6-11 and 13-20 are rejected by the Examiner.

- Claims 1 and 10 are amended by the Applicant.

Amendment After Final

Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested on the ground that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Alternatively, entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested on the ground that this amendment places the claims in better form and condition for appeal. Furthermore, Applicant submits that any changes made to the claims herein do not require an additional search on the part of the Office, nor do any amendments made herein raise new issues with regard to the patentability of the claims now pending.

Amendments to the Specification

Applicant has amended the section entitled "Background of the Invention" at paragraph 0004 to indicate that a smart display has no local host computer. Applicant understands that this is well known in the art. Applicant also amends the specification at paragraph 0034 to refer to numeric designations already found in Figure 3. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, Claims 1 and 10 were previously amended to recite "wherein the docking station itself is mobile, has no computer core when the mobile computer is uninstalled" and " a mobile docking station that has no computer core when a mobile computer is uninstalled" respectively. The Examiner concluded that the docking station, acting in a smart display mode when the

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computer bay is empty, as per paragraph 0025 of the specification, retains some type of computer "core".

Applicant suggests that the term "computer core", as used in the specification was exemplary of handheld types of host computers referred to in the background section at paragraph 0003. The term "computer core" is also one of a class of self contained host computers that are briefly listed as being a handheld, a laptop, or other computer as mentioned in Overview paragraph 0012 and Exemplary Embodiments paragraph 0024. In using the term "computer core", Applicant is acting permissibly as his own lexicographer. However, for clarity, Applicant chooses to use the term "computer core" with the more descriptive term "local host computer core" to further define that which Applicant considers his invention.

Applicant notes that Claims 1 and 10 refer to the use of the invention in smart display mode as described in paragraph 0025 where a mobile computer core 220 is not installed in the docking station 210 (See Figure 2). As described by the Examiner on page 3 of the present Office Action dated 2/9/06, operation in smart display mode retains some type of computer core function. Applicant submits that those of skill in the art are also aware that a smart display does not have a local host computer. Applicant submits that the amendment to Claims 1 and 10 which further describe that the docking station has no local host computer core when the mobile computer is uninstalled overcomes the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection and places all pending claims in a condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,538,880 to Kamijo et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,778,519 to Goshey et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Kamijo et al. discloses *a notebook PC 110, also referred to as a mainframe PC*, a mainframe and a PC mainframe (col. 3 line 53 though col. 4 line 14), and an input/output apparatus 120 which may be embodied as a PDA (col. 4 lines 11-14). The PC mainframe 110 is configured to accept the input/output device 120 (Figure 1). The input/output device 120

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may operate independently of the PC mainframe 110 or it may be operable if within wireless communication range (col. 3 lines 40-47 and col. 3 lines 61-67).

Goshey et al. discloses a system for transparently sharing peripheral devices over a network. (Abstract).

Amended independent Claim 1 recites:

A docking station for a mobile computer, the docking station comprising:

a port for receiving the mobile computer;

a communication interface for communicating with at least one external computer, wherein the external computer and the mobile computer are separate computers; and

a display for depicting information exchanged with the at least one external computer;

wherein the docking station is itself mobile, *has no local host computer core when the mobile computer is uninstalled*, and enables the communication interface to acquire the information of the external computer and to display the information when the mobile computer is both uninstalled and without communications with the docking station, and wherein the docking station enables communications with the mobile computer when the mobile computer is installed into the port.

The Examiner asserts that the docking station of Claims 1 and 10 is analogous to the laptop computer of Kumijo et al. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. It is well known in the art that a docking station, by itself, does not have a built-in local host computer such as a laptop. This is evinced by definitions available from multiple sources that are well-understood by those of skill in the art. For example, Newtown's Telecom Dictionary, 18th Edition defines a docking station as:

Docking Station: *Base station for a laptop* that includes a power supply, expansion slots, monitor, keyboard connectors, CD-ROM and extra hard disk connectors. *A user slides his laptop into a base station* and in effect, gets the equivalent of a desktop machine. (Newton's Telecon Dictionary, 18th Edition, February 2002, CMP Books Publisher, New York, N.Y.)

In another example, the term "docking station" has the following meaning:

Docking Station: *A base station for a laptop* that turns the portable computer into a desktop system. It uses a large plug and socket *to quickly connect the laptop*, which duplicates all the cable lines for the monitor, printer, keyboard, mouse, etc. The docking station typically has one or two slots for expansion boards and may house speakers and other peripherals such as a CD-ROM drive. (TechWeb Technical Encyclopedia at www.techweb.com/encyclopedia/).

Applicant submits that the term "docking station", and the term "laptop" are not synonymous and are two separate entities. Therefore, Applicant submits that the docking station of Claim 1 is not the laptop computer (110) of Kumijo et al. Further, the "docking station" as used in the present specification is compatible with the conventionally held understanding of the term in that a "docking station" typically does not have a local user-accessible computing core host, such as a laptop computer. Indeed, the definitions cited above indicate that those of skill in the art regard a "docking station" as an item onto which one can place a laptop computer so as to increase the utility of a laptop. Therefore a docking station is clearly not a laptop. Applicant submits that a "docking station", as used in Claims 1 and 10, cannot itself be a laptop computer as asserted by the Examiner.

The Examiner contends (e.g. see Office Action page 2, dated 10/08/2004) that Kamijo et al. teaches the laptop computer (110) **acts** as a docking station for receiving mobile computer. Applicant believes this analogy is also misplaced because figure 11 of Kumijo et al. teaches that the input/output apparatus (120) is housed within the PC mainframe(110). (See Fig. 11 and col. 7, lines 39-41). Since docking stations are defined to be without laptops (PC mainframes), then the laptop (110) in Kamijo et al. is essentially a host computer that provides an interface housing (not a docking station) for an input/output device (120). Kamijo et al. defines item 110 (pictured in Figures 1 and 11 as a laptop computer) as a notebook PC, and as a PC mainframe (col. 3 lines 61-63). Kumijo et al. is clear that item 110, in Figures 1 and 11, has significant independent computing capability because it is referred to as a mainframe PC. In addition, Kumijo et al. states that the input/output device (110) can be identified as a PDA (col. 3 lines 34-39). It is clear that removal of the input/output PDA (120) device from the laptop computer (110) does not remove the host computing capability from the laptop PC mainframe (110). In fact, Kumijo et al. is never without the local host computing capability of the laptop computer. Applicant also notes that Kumijo et al. summarizes

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embodiments as being a portable computer housed in another computer and adding functions to the other computer when housed inside of the other computer. (col. 8 lines 1-7. See also col. 8, lines 8-58).

It is apparent that the teachings of Kumijo et al. include the aspect that when input/output device 120 is removed from the laptop, a PC mainframe laptop computer (110) still remains to be a local host computer. Claim 1 recites that the docking station has no local host computer core when the mobile computer is uninstalled. Clearly, Kumijo et al. and Claim 1 represent different inventions and the docking station of Claim 1 and the laptop of Kumijo et al. cannot reasonably be concluded to be analogous by one of skill in the art.

In Kumijo et al., when the PDA input output device (120) is removed from the PC mainframe (110), the local host computing capability remains intact because the laptop (110) continues to function as a fully capable computer. In fact, the laptop computer (110) can act as a host computer to support communications with the PDA (120) (col. 3, lines 61-67). The input/output device may also be used as a remote control for the mainframe PC when the input/output device is removed (col. 4, lines 63-67). Applicant submits that this PDA (120) to laptop (110) feature of Kumijo et al. strongly suggests that the PC mainframe 110 continues to function as a PC mainframe host for the PDA (120) even when PDA input/output device 120 is uninstalled.

In contrast, Claim 1 recites that removal of the mobile computer from the docking station removes the local host computing core. Thus, not only is the docking station of Claim 1 not a laptop by simple definition, but the teaching of Kumijo et al. works in a different manner with respect to computing capability as compared to the host-less docking station of Claim 1 when a mobile computer is not installed. Applicant thus submits that Kamijo et al. is distinct and teaches away from amended Claims 1 and 10. Clearly, Kumijo et al. and Claim 1 represent different inventions and the docking station of Claim 1 and the laptop of Kumijo et al. cannot reasonably be concluded to be analogous by one of skill in the art.

In yet another aspect, Applicant submits that Kamijo et al. fails to teach a docking station that has no local host computer core when the mobile computer is uninstalled and which also communicates with an external computer (not the mobile computer) when the

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mobile computer is both uninstalled and is without communications with the docking station.

Applicant submits that Goshey et al. also fails to teach or suggest a docking station that has no local host computer core when the mobile computer is uninstalled but which communicates with an external computer (not the mobile computer) when the mobile computer is both uninstalled and is without communications with the docking station.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness per 35 U.S.C §103(a) (See MPEP 706.02(j)) because all elements are not found in the cited art. Applicants note that neither Kamijo et al. nor Goshey et al. either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the invention recited in amended Claims 1 and 10. Specifically, Kumijo et al and Goshley et al. either alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest that a docking station, having a mobile computer that is both uninstalled and without communication to the docking station, can enable a communication interface of the docking station to acquire information of an external computer and to display the information wherein the external computer and the mobile computer are separate computers.

Additionally, as discussed above, Kumijo et al. teaches away from the present invention because Kumijo et al. retains a local host computing core at all times and therefore cannot be rationally combined with Goshey et al. to render obvious amended independent Claims 1 and 10 because all elements of the claims are not found in the cited art. Applicant submits that amended independent Claims 1 and 10 thus patentably define over the cited art.

Similarly, Claims 2-4 and 6-9 depend on amended independent Claim 1 and likewise patentably define over the cited art. Claims 11- and 13-20 depend on amended independent Claim 10 and thus also patentably define over the cited art. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of all pending claims.

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Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112 and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections and request reconsideration because the pending claims patentably define over the cited art. The Examiner is earnestly asked to contact the undersigned directly at (215) 557-5949 to help resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,
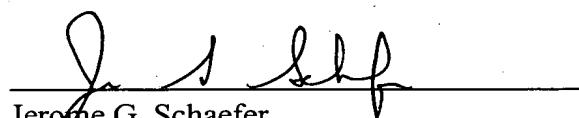
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